ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 27, 287 (1978)

Book Reviews

J. L. MACKIE, *The Cement of the Universe, A Study of Causation*, Oxford University Press, 1974, 329 pp. The ineffable Mr. Mackie is at it again. He gives us his beautiful world where facts are expressed by statements of the form "*A* is *B*," where events have definite causes and effects, where everything is made of atoms and molecules. The world of our infancy, in short. A world we would like to go back to believe and take refuge in, away from the messy uncertainties of today. But alas, you can't go home again.

F. GOUSETH, *Le référentiel, univers obligé de médiatisation*, L'age d'homme, 1975, 201 pp. A very "in" French account of what undoubtedly must be a lively topic of discussion among French-speaking intellectuals. The French really know how to fry their ideas, even if at times they come out too crisp.

J. VAN RYZIN, ED., *Classification and Clustering*, Academic Press, 1977, 467pp. One should resist the temptation of tossing a book like this into the wastebasket after a ten-second perusal. Actually, there is always some little gem tucked away somewhere. But where? I'm afraid you'll have to read it to find out.

K. SCHUTTE, *Proof Theory*, Springer, 1977, 299 pp. A completely reworked edition of one of the classics in the subject, this book will remain the bible for many years to come. The reading is difficult but rewarding.

BRONSHTEIN-SEMENDYAYEF, *A Guide Book to Mathematics*, Harri Deutsch, 1973, 783 pp. The Russians, who get paid by the page rather than by the number of copies sold, have few qualms about publishing a collection, like this one, of trite repetitions of useless mathematical platitudes, cribbed and hastily put together with exasperating uniformity from all the previous pathetic attempts at pawning off what purports to be useful mathematics, but is in reality only a pitiful parody of it.

P. J. DAVIS AND P. RABINOWITZ, *Methods of Numerical Integration*, Academic Press, 1975, 459 pp. This is it: the definitive treatment on numerical integration for many years to come. Thorough, impeccable, and attractive presentation.

H. YANAGIHARA, *Theory of Hopf Algebras Attached to Group Schemes*, Springer, 1977, 308 pp. Hopf algebras are coming of age. Perhaps some day they will replace groups, eh? At any rate, a book of this length should carefully display the important results, instead of presenting everything in white-noise style.

Oeuvres complètes de N. H. Abel, Vol. 1, 621 pp., Vol. 2, 340 pp., Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1972. Are we becoming senile, or is it really true that reading about Abelian integrals in Abel makes them clearer than reading about them in the writings of any of our nine-day wonders? We leave it for you to decide.

Les probabilités sur les structures algébriques, C.N.R.S., 1970, 361 pp. The only thing wrong with this collection of papers is the title. Not one of the expositions justifies it. Other than that, the papers are interesting and useful contributions to probabilistic functional analysis.

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Editor

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